

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Governor Pataki
State Capital
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki,

I write to you today to urge you to reconsider closing the Camp Pharsalia, minimum security corrections facility located in Chenango County. This facility is a vital part of the Chenango county economy and community. Whatever savings may or may not occur as a result of closing it is not worth the damage to the surrounding area that will result.

The Camp Pharsalia facility is much more than simply a prison, it is a vital and energetic part of Chenango County. Camp Pharsalia employs more than 100 New Yorkers with high quality, well paying jobs. Although the jobs would not necessarily be lost should Camp Pharsalia shut down, currently unclear reassignment orders will most likely displace over 100 families from their homes.

The drastic change to the surrounding community will not be limited only to the displaced families. The Chenango County Chamber of Commerce estimates over 10.8 million dollars in negative economic impact to the surrounding community. This economic impact translates into lost jobs, not only in Camp Pharsalia, but in the surrounding area that supplies many of the materials and services used by the facility.

The Camp Pharsalia facility has enjoyed a model relationship with the surrounding area. The facility and its inhabitants have contributed tens of thousands of hours of community service to the surrounding counties, helping with everything from forestry programs to janitorial works for veteran's homes. Although there is no obligation to do so, in return the community's service groups regularly offer mentoring to and tutor the inmates. This institution represents the best in an association between a local minimum security prison and the surrounding community.

I strongly recommend you reverse the previous decision to close the Camp Pharsalia facility. By closing this institution you would not only hurt the families who have members employed by it, by you would ruin a near-ideal, mutually beneficial relationship between an incarceration institution and the local community. As you well

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know, such a relationship is very difficult to achieve and worth preserving where it exists.
Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer

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